# Utah State Charter School Board Meeting Minutes

# May 13, 2010

North & South Board Rooms Utah State Office of Education

## **APPROVED**

Members present: Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Tom Morgan, John

Pingree, Scott Smith

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Cory Kanth, Jeannie Rowland, Georgia Loutensock, Jo

Schmitt

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove, State Deputy for Education - Christine Kearl, Superintendent Larry Shumway, Associate Superintendent Todd Hauber, Janet Cannon, Janene Bowen, Darren Beck, Steve Winitzky, Reba Vest, Carla Heesch, Lynne Herring, Ken Parkinson, Chris Helvey, Meredith Francom.

## Call to Order

Chair Brian Allen called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

## Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tom Morgan to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2010 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

## Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Brian Allen made the SCSB aware of a number of Charter School Graduations that will be held in the next few weeks. Chair Allen encouraged the SCSB to attend those graduations they would be available.

## Information Items

# Facilities update for schools opening in fall 2010

Cory Kanth informed the SCSB that the USOE Charter School Section has received signed board statements and/or signed and executed leasing agreements from Bear River Charter School, Maria Montessori Academy, Quail Run Primary School, and Weilenmann School of Discovery. All schools complied with the request that they send in a signed statement and evidence of the progress of their facilities. Good Foundations Academy and Summit Academy High School sent in provisional copies of the lease they intend to sign. Neither school has executed the lease, but is in process and has certified that everything is on track and will be able to open on time. Quail Run Primary School's signed statement certifies that construction has begun and occupancy will be available for them between August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, in time for classes to begin. Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that the Charter School Section does visit the schools in June to ensure the schools are moving forward as they have stated.

## Conflict of Interest form

Director Burns presented a Charter School Board Conflict of Interest form for the SCSB's approval to continue the practice of having a signed form by the SCSB members on file at the USOE.

#### Action Items

## **Board Standing Committee Reports**

• Legislative & Rule Review Committee-Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of rules that are being reviewed by the State Board of Education that are very specific to charter schools. R277-470-2 – Specific to how a charter school student would transfer either between charter schools or a charter school in a district, what the time frames are, and what the expectations are. But more importantly, what this rule defines is how a district calculates whether or not a school is full.

R277-470-3 – Maximum Authorized Charter School Students; R277-470-12 – Charter School Oversight and Monitoring; and R277-470-17 – Miscellaneous Provisions were also rules that were discussed in the committee meeting.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tom Morgan and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to support the changes and recommendations of the presented rules. The motion was carried unanimously.

Accountability Committee-Vice Chair Tom Morgan reported to the SCSB there is continued progress in
the charter schools that are putting in application for NAAS Accreditation. Mr. Morgan also stated that
the committee also discussed overall accountability and how the group of charter schools and the SCSB
continue in pursuit of total accountability.

Georgia Loutensock informed the SCSB there are 16 charter schools that were accredited for the current school year and she is in the process of sending letters of invitation for the 23 remaining schools that still need Northwest Accreditation.

- School Assistance Committee-Member Tim Beagley informed the SCSB that Darren Beck, from the Charter School Association, was in attendance at the committee meeting to present information regarding the "Elevate" program. "Elevate" is an accountability model, a comprehensive program to determine weaknesses and gaps in operation.
- State Charter School Board work group-Tim Beagley presented possible changes or revisions to the Charter School Board Bylaws.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tom Morgan to approve the proposed changes to the Charter School Board Bylaws along with directing the Charter School Staff to correct any spelling or grammatical errors. The motion was carried unanimously.

## Revolving Loan Committee Recommendations

Cory Kanth informed the SCSB that in this round of lending there was nearly \$1.3 million dollars available. The Revolving Loan Committee received four applications that valued at \$895,000. The Revolving Loan Committee was able to accept and send for the SCSB review three of those applications. Those schools are Aspire Online Charter School - \$300,000 for the purpose of retro-fitting learning center sites, development of online curriculum accommodating needs of low-income target population, office and communications equipment, contracted services for design of intervention and recovery programs, and staff recruitment. Channing Hall - \$160,000 for renovation of existing facilities to accommodate expansion and Oquirrh Mountain Charter School - \$297,778 for professional development costs, curricular supplies and materials, technology, and kitchen installation. Soldier Hollow Charter School's request is pending for further review.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to approve the Revolving Loan Committee recommendations. The motion was carried unanimously.

# Amendment Request – C.S. Lewis Academy

CS Lewis Academy requested changes to their charter to maintain the "at will" structure of the school.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval to the USBE the requested amendment to CS Lewis Academy's charter. The motion was carried unanimously.

# <u>Amendment Request – Freedom Academy</u>

Freedom Academy requested an expansion from the original K-8 charter to add grades 9-12, creating a seamless K-12 design.

After much discussion, motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Scott Smith to recommend for approval to the USBE the amendment request, with the understanding and stipulation the school build on the existing property. The motion was carried with supportive votes by Vice Chair Tom Morgan, Members Julie Adamic, Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, John Pingree, and Scott Smith. Chair Brian Allen voting in opposition of the motion.

### Strategic Planning Session

Member Tom Morgan expressed his desire for a strategy session take place amongst the SCSB to discuss what the board is trying to accomplish, the timeframe for that accomplishment, and what is important to the board in relation to the charters. Suggestion was made to hold a Strategic Planning Meeting on July 15, 2010, prior to the Clayton Christensen presentation.

#### Executive Session

Motion was made by Member John Pingree to move into an executive session for the purpose of (1) discussing pending litigation and (2) character and professional competence discussions regarding charter schools. The Board was polled and by unanimous consent of Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Tim Beagley, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Tom Morgan, John Pingree, Scott Smith the Board moved into an executive session at 12:00 noon.

Motion was made by Member Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith to reconvene into open meeting. The motion was carried unanimously. The board reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

#### Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 1:20 p.m. by Member Scott Smith.